United Nations A/58/6 (Sect. 22)

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 March 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005*

Part V
Regional cooperation for development

Section 22
Economic and social development in Western Asia

(Programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005)**

Contents

		Page
Overview		2
A.	Policy-making organs	7
B.	Executive direction and management	7
C.	Programme of work	9
	Subprogramme 1. Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development	10
	Subprogramme 2. Integrated social policies	15
	Subprogramme 3. Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development	19
	Subprogramme 4. Regional integration and responding to globalization	21
	Subprogramme 5. Information and communication technology for regional integration	24
	Subprogramme 6. Comparable statistics for improved planning and decision-making	28
D.	Programme support	30
Annex		
Recurrent outputs not to be carried in the biennium 2004-2005		35

* The approved programme budget will subsequently be issued in final form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/58/6/Rev.1).

** *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/57/6/Rev.1).

03-28859 (E) 100403

Section 22
Economic and social development in Western Asia

(Programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005)

Overview

22.1 The programme of work under this section has been elaborated within the framework of programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and will be implemented by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). It includes six interlinked subprogrammes.

22.2 The objective of this programme is to accelerate the pace of economic, social and technological development in the region and to halt the unsustainable exploitation of its natural resources. This can be best served through the facilitation of Arab regional integration, which was mandated as the principal concern for the ESCWA secretariat by the Commission at its twenty-first session.

22.3 The ESCWA region is confronted by four principal challenges: (a) the absence of comprehensive, integrated sustainable social policies that take into consideration the economic, social and environmental aspects of development; (b) the need to consider the impact of economic variables on the social dimension of development in addressing the unsustainable economic situation vis-à-vis sustained population growth; (c) the need to respond to the challenges of globalization and trade liberalization under the World Trade Organization (WTO) regime; and (d) the need to keep abreast of the requirements of the rapid pace of the technology revolution and to bridge the digital divide. These considerations are especially important in a region characterized by rapid population growth, conflicts and scarcity of water resources.

22.4 The programme, which takes into account the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change" (A/57/387 and Corr.1) and the related General Assembly resolution 57/300, is predicated on the strategic approach of the reform exercise carried out by ESCWA in 2002-2003 and further developed for the biennium 2004-2005. This approach employs rational criteria to emphasize, strengthen or add existing or new elements to the new programme structure. On the basis of this exercise, ESCWA will continue to rationalize its work by focusing on the four pivotal region-specific priority areas at the subprogramme level, which are also central to the Millennium Declaration Goals and the Monterrey and Johannesburg outcomes: (a) managing social policies, given that existing social policies in the ESCWA region are often fragmented; (b) managing water and energy, given the importance of water in a region which is characterized by scarcity of resources, most of which are shared, and which are offset by abundant energy resources; (c) managing globalization, the driving force in world economic developments; and (d) managing technology, an issue of special importance owing to the considerable digital divide that characterizes this region. Task-oriented intra- and interdivisional work teams will follow a holistic multidisciplinary approach to the implementation of the programme of work that underlines the strong linkages among the four priorities identified. Corresponding changes were introduced to the organizational structure to accommodate these priorities.

22.5 The programme will continue to pursue its objectives by reorienting its work in the area of social development to focus on raising the member States' awareness of the need for widening the scope of the social aspects of development to cover pressing issues and to formulate integrated and sustainable social policies. The integration of the industrial and agricultural sectors with energy, environment and water disciplines at ESCWA was intended to consolidate the programme of work and to improve multidisciplinary synergies, eliminate redundancies and increase focus since the

agricultural sector is the primary consumer of water and the industrial sector of energy. Combining issues that deal with globalization and regional integration under one subprogramme is also emblematic of ESCWA attempts to draw on synergies in its work since regional economic integration could be a catalytic step towards integration into the world economy. Placing transport issues under the subprogramme that deals with globalization also serves the realization of programmatic synergies since transport facilitation is closely related to trade facilitation, a key issue under the WTO regime.

22.6 ESCWA will also assist its member States with accession to WTO and implementation of the related agreements and position them for competition in regional and international markets. It will attempt to stress the relative importance of knowledge-based industries as a leading sector of the global economy, which could drive regional development and introduce information and communication technologies as a tool for poverty reduction and job creation, which could lead to a better quality of life without enormous investments or environmental damage. Thus, subprogramme 5 in its entirety has been dedicated to this purpose. Furthermore, ESCWA will assist member countries to increase their capacity to assess quantitatively economic and financial data and trends and coordinate economic policies to achieve the economic development of the region through subprogramme 3, which has been explicitly dedicated to this purpose.

22.7 The programme will continue to serve as a forum for articulating the concerns of the member countries, facilitating dialogue and exchanging best practices. It will further continue to assist member States by raising awareness of the principal issues of concern and providing advocacy in facilitating consensus and the adoption of regional positions vis-à-vis issues discussed at global forums.

22.8 ESCWA will carry out its activities in cooperation with organizations of the United Nations system, regional and international entities. Chief among those are the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), other United Nations regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Bretton Woods Institutions and WTO. Some regional level partners are the League of Arab States and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and its subsidiary bodies. Collaboration and cooperation will include organizing joint meetings, preparing joint studies and sharing information and experience. Efforts will continue to enhance cooperation among regional United Nations entities through the Regional Coordination Group. ESCWA will also exert efforts to involve civil society institutions in its work.

22.9 Rationalization of the number of outputs, initiated in the previous biennium within the framework of the restructuring of ESCWA programmes, has resulted in a 15 per cent reduction, mostly in non-recurrent publications, in the 2002-2003 programme. There will be a further 12 per cent reduction in 2004-2005. This reduction, which focuses limited resources on key outputs, exhibits significant multidisciplinary synergies and capitalizes on a shift from a quantitative to a qualitative approach to programme formulation so as to optimize programme impact.

22.10 The programme's main expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for the biennium 2004-2005 are detailed, together with the required resources, under the programme of work and under executive direction and management. The overall framework of these expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement is shown in table 22.1 below.

Table 22.1 **Framework of expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement by component**

Component		*Number of expected accomplishments*	*Number of indicators of achievement*
A.	Executive direction and management	4	6
B.	Programme of work	-	-
1.	Integrated management of regional resources for sustainable development	4	8
2.	Integrated social policies	5	10
3.	Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development	4	4
4.	Regional integration and adapting to globalization	4	7
5.	Information and communication technologies for regional development	5	7
6.	Comparable statistics for improved planning and policy decisions	4	5
	Total	**30**	**47**

22.11 The resources proposed under this section amount to $51,066,300, including a resource growth of $1,223,500 (or 2.4 per cent at 2002-2003 rates). The increase is the result of a range of adjustments in the activities and related resources proposed for this section, as reflected in table 22.4 below, which may be summarized as follows:

(a) The increase of $209,900 under executive direction and management is due to the delayed impact of growth in 2002-2003 ($125,800), and increases of $27,400 under general temporary assistance and overtime and $56,700 under expert groups;

(b) The increase of $336,400 under the programme of work relates to: (i) the delayed impact of growth in 2002-2003 under subprogramme 6, Comparative statistics for improved planning and decision-making; the reclassification of two P-4 posts to the P-5 level, one under subprogramme 1, Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development, and another under subprogramme 4, Regional integration and responding to globalization; and the reclassification of a local level post to P-2/1 under subprogramme 2, Integrated social policies ($319,900); and (ii) additional requirements of $16,500 under non-post objects of expenditure resulting from an increase of $96,700 under general temporary assistance and overtime, largely offset by decreases under consultants and experts ($61,000) and under travel of staff ($19,200);

(c) The increase of $677,200 under programme support is a net result of additional requirements due to the delayed impact of growth in 2002-2003 ($1,081,500) and decreased requirements ($404,300) as a result of changes under various non-post objects of expenditure.

22.12 During the biennium 2004-2005, expected extrabudgetary resources amounting to $1,400,000 will be utilized to supplement resources from the regular budget to finance activities related to: (a) training to enhance regional capacity for policy analysis; (b) local community development in Arab rural areas; (c) the enhancement of the national capacities of member States in the calculation of purchasing power parities and for preparation of related comparative studies for economic development; and (d) the initiation of pilot facilities in selected ESCWA member countries to demonstrate and evaluate schemes for employment creation and poverty alleviation through new technology.

22.13 Owing to the particular situation of the region, ESCWA has always found it difficult to estimate in advance the level of extrabudgetary resources to which it would have access. Owing to the efforts of its secretariat, however, ESCWA has succeeded, in the course of the bienniums 2000-2001 and 2002-2003, in mobilizing more resources than those which had initially been indicated.

22.14 The ESCWA secretariat has engaged in consultations on the programme of work with the Advisory Committee established by ESCWA resolution 175 (XV) of 18 May 1989 to facilitate such consultations with member States. The full review of the draft programme of work by ESCWA member States is expected to take place at the twenty-second session of the Commission, in April 2003.

22.15 The issue of publications as a part of the programme of work has been reviewed in the context of each subprogramme. It is anticipated that recurrent and non-recurrent publications will be issued as shown below in summary and as distributed in the output information for each subprogramme.

Table 22.2 **Summary of publications**

Publications	*2000-2001 actual*	*2002-2003 estimate*	*2004-2005 estimate*
Recurrent	36	53	48
Non-recurrent	68	50	28
Total	**104**	**103**	**76**

22.16 The estimated percentage distribution of resources under this section would be as shown in table 22.3 below.

Table 22.3 **Percentage distribution of resources by component**

Component	*Regular budget*	*Extrabudgetary*
A. Policy-making organs	0.2	-
B. Executive direction and management	5.5	-
C. Programme of work	45.5	100
Subprogramme 1. Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development	12.2	7.1
Subprogramme 2. Integrated social policies	10.9	21.4
Subprogramme 3. Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development	6.6	53.6
Subprogramme 4. Regional integration and responding to globalization	9.2	-
Subprogramme 5. Information and communication technology for regional integration	6.0	17.9
Subprogramme 6. Comparable statistics for improved planning and decision-making	0.6	-
D. Programme support	48.8	-
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

Table 22.4 Resource requirements by component

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component	2000-2001 expenditure	2002-2003 appropriation	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	2004-2005 estimate
			Amount	Percentage			
Policy-making organs	77.1	115.5	-	-	115.5	3.3	118.8
Executive direction and management	1 749.4	2 584.3	209.9	8.1	2 794.2	173.1	2 967.3
Programme of work	20 051.3	22 873.4	336.4	1.4	23 209.8	1 353.7	24 563.5
Programme support	23 851.7	24 269.6	677.2	2.7	24 946.8	1 103.3	26 050.1
Total	**45 729.5**	**49 842.8**	**1 223.5**	**2.4**	**51 066.3**	**2 633.4**	**53 699.7**

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

	2000-2001 expenditure	2002-2003 estimate	2004-2005 estimate
Total	**2 963.0**	**2 356.7**	**1 400.0**
Total (1) and (2)	**48 692.5**	**52 199.5**	**55 099.7**

Table 22.5 Post requirements

Category	Established regular budget posts		Temporary posts				Total	
			Regular budget		Extrabudgetary			
	2002-2003	2004-2005	2002-2003	2004-2005	2002-2003	2004-2005	2002-2003	2004-2005
Professional and above								
USG	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
ASG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D-2	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
D-1	7	7	-	-	-	-	7	7
P-5	21	23	-	-	2	-	23	23
P-4/3	61	59	-	-	-	-	61	59
P-2/1	15	16	-	-	-	-	15	16
Subtotal	**106**	**107**	**-**	**-**	**2**	**-**	**108**	**107**
Other categories								
Local level	182	181	-	-	-	-	182	181
Field Service	3	3	-	-	-	-	3	3
Subtotal	**185**	**184**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**185**	**184**
Total	**291**	**291**	**-**	**-**	**2**	**-**	**293**	**291**

A. Policy-making organs

Resource requirements (before recosting): $115,500

22.17 The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia comprises 13 member States. The Commission meets biennially, normally at its headquarters. Until 1999, Commission sessions were preceded by a session of the Technical Committee, which was redesignated the Preparatory Committee in accordance with Commission resolution 223 (XX) of 27 May 1999. Pursuant to that resolution, as of 2005, the Preparatory Committee will meet prior to the plenary of the Commission to consider agenda items. Consequently, the Commission's twenty-third session, in 2005, will be preceded by a three-day meeting to be followed by a two-day plenary session of the Commission. The intergovernmental machinery of the Commission includes six subsidiary bodies to assist the Commission on programme matters, such as monitoring and evaluation of programme performance, and to provide advice on the formulation of work programmes in their respective areas of competence. The six intergovernmental committees are: (a) the Statistical Committee; (b) the Committee on Social Development; (c) the Committee on Energy; (d) the Committee on Water Resources; (e) the Committee on Transport; and (f) the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the countries of the ESCWA region. Five of these six subsidiary bodies hold their sessions biennially, and the Committee on Transport meets annually. During the biennium 2004-2005, the sequence and dates of their sessions will be as follows: the sixth session of the Statistical Committee (3 days in 2004); the fifth session of the Committee on Social Development (3 days in 2004); the fifth session of the Committee on Energy (2 days in 2004); the sixth session of the Committee on Water Resources (3 days in 2004); and the fourth session of the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the countries of the ESCWA region (2 days in 2005). The Committee on Transport will hold its fifth and sixth sessions, lasting three days each, in 2004 and 2005 respectively.

Table 22.6 **Resource requirements**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005 (before recosting)*	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005*
Non-post	115.5	115.5	0	0
Total	**115.5**	**115.5**	**0**	**0**

22.18 A provision of $115,500 under temporary assistance for meetings, at the maintenance level, is required for interpretation, translation and general temporary assistance during the sessions of the Commission, the Preparatory Committee and the six subsidiary committees.

B. Executive direction and management

Resource requirements (before recosting): $2,794,200

22.19 Executive direction and management comprises the functions of the Office of the Executive Secretary and information services.

Table 22.7 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective: To ensure full implementation of legislative mandates and compliance with United Nations policies and procedures with respect to the management of the programme of work and of staff and financial resources.

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Programme of work is effectively managed and supported by staff and financial resources	(a) (i) Timely delivery of outputs and services
	(ii) Timely recruitment and placement of staff
	(iii) Full utilization of resources
(b) Identification of emerging issues that require the attention of member States	(b) Increase in the number of occasions on which member States address issues that have been brought to their attention
(c) Timely deployment of operations to the field	(c) Reduction in the number of delays encountered during deployment of operations
(d) Enhanced policy coherence in the management of the economic and social activities of the United Nations	(d) Increase in the number of activities carried out in collaboration with other entities

22.20 The Office of the Executive Secretary provides overall direction, programme oversight, planning, coordination and integrated management and policy guidelines for the substantive divisions and for technical cooperation and other support services, including the Statistical Coordination Unit and Conference and Library Services, maintains effective and regular contact with representatives of member States with a view to discussing substantive issues of concern to member States and to the region; ensures more effective collaboration and coordination between ESCWA and the rest of the United Nations Secretariat, specialized agencies, international and regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; and gives overall direction to information services rendered by the ESCWA secretariat.

22.21 The Office of the Executive Secretary oversees the functioning of the intergovernmental machinery of the Commission, including its biennial session and its subsidiary bodies. It also coordinates the activities of the secretariat of the Regional Coordination Group, established in 1999 to further facilitate consultations with all United Nations entities in the ESCWA region, and those of the ESCWA Advisory Committee, established by ESCWA resolution 175 (XV) of 18 May 1989 to facilitate consultations between the ESCWA secretariat and member States.

22.22 In addition, the Office oversees public information functions through the joint services of the United Nations Information Centre/United Nations Information Services. Activities will aim at increasing public awareness and understanding of the work conducted by the United Nations in general and ESCWA and the United Nations specialized agencies in the home country in particular. They will include the dissemination of information and the launching of media campaigns, the issuance of press releases, bulletins and information kits, the development of quality audio and video programmes, the production of the ESCWA information booklet, interviews, press

conferences, round-table discussions, the preparation of lectures and briefings on United Nations issues and the issuance of occasional pamphlets or brochures to cover special events.

Table 22.8 **Resource requirements**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005 (before recosting)*	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005*
Post	2 459.9	2 585.7	16	16
Non-post	124.4	208.5	0	0
Total	**2 584.3**	**2 794.2**	**16**	**16**
Extrabudgetary	-	-	-	-

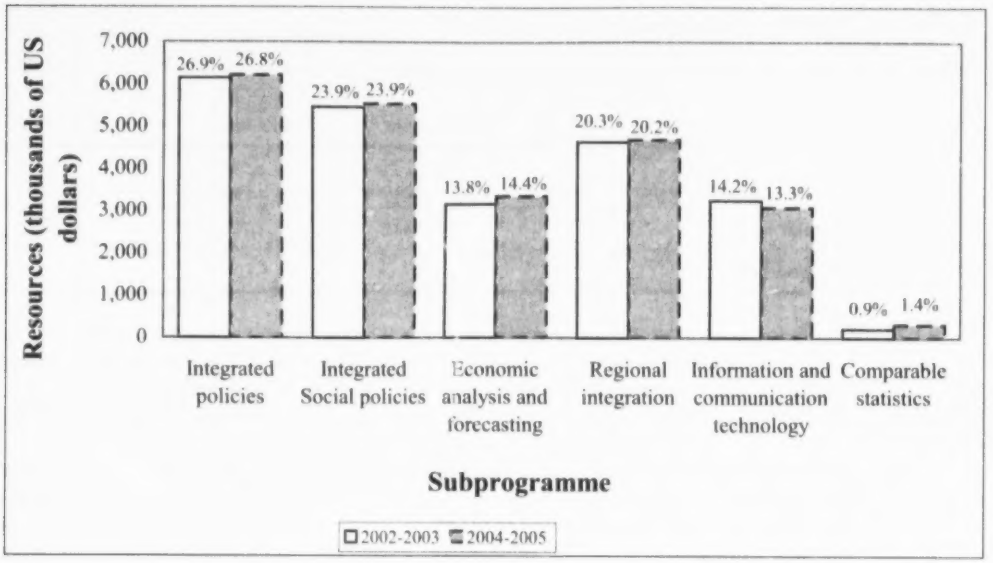
22.23 The amount of $2,794,200 provides for: (a) $2,585,700 for 16 posts, reflecting an increase of $125,800 due to the delayed impact of the establishment of a P-4 post for the position of Chief of Protocol/Coordination in 2002-2003; and (b) non-post requirements of $208,500, reflecting an increase of $84,100 over the current biennium, due to (i) the decentralization of part of the total overtime provision, previously budgeted under programme support ($15,200); (ii) a provision for additional temporary assistance in line with the increased responsibilities of the office with regard to administrative direction of the Statistics Coordination Unit and conference and library services ($12,200); and (iii) additional funds for the biennial meetings of two expert groups that formulate ESCWA policy directives on substantive issues and on promoting regional Arab integration ($56,700).

C. Programme of work

Table 22.9 **Resource requirements by subprogramme**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Subprogramme	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005 (before recosting)*	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005*
Programme of work				
1. Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development	6 147.9	6 213.8	31	31
2. Integrated social policies	5 460.6	5 545.9	28	28
3. Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development	3 164.8	3 347.4	16	17
4. Regional integration and responding to globalization	4 633.2	4 689.0	23	23
5. Information and communication technology for regional integration	3 253.2	3 092.0	16	15
6. Comparable statistics for improved planning and decision-making	213.7	321.7	2	2
Total	**22 873.4**	**23 209.8**	**116**	**116**
Extrabudgetary	2 259.4	1 400.0	2	-

Regular budget resource requirements by subprogramme



Subprogramme 1
Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development

Resource requirements (before recosting): $6,213,800

22.24 This subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division. The programme of work has been formulated by drawing upon subprogramme 1 of programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

Table 22.10 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective: To have a positive impact on regional integration and cooperation among ESCWA member countries, based on a concerted approach to integrated sustainable management of water and energy and the production sectors.

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Increased ability of member countries to formulate integrated policies for the efficient and sustainable management of water and energy sectors, with due consideration to the needs and role of women	(a) Measures undertaken by member countries to increase the number of institutions adopting policies and measures for improving the sustainability of the water and energy sectors *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: 1 institution Estimate 2002-2003: 4 institutions Target 2004-2005: 10 institutions
(b) Increased regional cooperation in the management of shared surface and groundwater and energy networks	(b) (i) Number of memorandums of understanding signed by member States to jointly plan and manage shared water resources *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: Two memorandums of understanding signed on shared water resources Target 2004-2005: Four memorandums of understanding signed on shared water resources (ii) Number of countries agreeing to cooperate on energy issues *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: 8 countries Estimate 2002-2003: 12 countries Target 2004-2005: 13 countries (iii) Increase in the activities of the regional mechanism on sustainable energy systems and partnership initiatives in member States

		Performance measures: 2000-2001: one activity/initiative Estimate 2002-2003: two activities/initiatives Target 2004-2005: four activities/initiatives
(c) Increased capacity of member countries in the formulation and implementation of policies and policy measures for sustainable development	(c)	(i) Balanced integration of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in the region; the number of member States planning for institutional reform to move beyond traditional environmental management *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: not available Estimate 2002-2003: three institutions/policies/instruments Target 2004-2005: nine institutions/policies/instruments (ii) Increase in the number of member countries that adopt/implement sustainable development measures; the number of measures and/or tools adopted/applied to improve water use efficiency and/or reverse land degradation in agriculture *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: not available Estimate 2002-2003: one measure/tool Target 2004-2005: four measures/tools
(d) Enhanced national capacities for improving productivity and competitiveness and in improving the performance of small and medium-sized enterprises with a view to poverty reduction	(d)	(i) Increase in the number of countries and/or initiatives targeting innovative technology and management techniques to enhance productivity and competitiveness; feedback from small and medium-sized enterprises regarding benefits derived from information disseminated by ESCWA *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: not available

Estimate 2002-2003: one initiative

Target 2004-2005: five initiatives

(ii) Increase in new institution building, technology parks and incubators; and networking/clustering arrangements

Performance measures:

2000-2001: not available

Estimate 2002-2003: two countries formulating innovation policy

Target 2004-2005: four countries formulating innovation policy

External factors

22.25 The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that there is: (a) a desire on the part of member States for partnership and cooperation in planning and managing shared natural resources; (b) the continued availability of extrabudgetary resources; (c) a willingness on the part of member States to adopt technology development policies and institutions; (d) active participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in related ESCWA activities; (e) a willingness on the part of member States to provide data and information for the construction of databases and environmental monitoring; and (f) the availability of sufficient resources for the Governments to undertake the necessary related development measures.

Outputs

22.26 During the biennium, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies:

(i) Committee on Water Resources:

a. Substantive servicing of six meetings of the sixth session of the Committee on Water Resources;

b. Parliamentary documentation: a report to the Commission on the sixth session of the Committee on Water Resources;

(ii) Committee on Energy:

a. Substantive servicing of four meetings of the fifth session of the Committee on Energy;

b. Parliamentary documentation: a report to the Commission on the fifth session of the Committee on Energy;

(iii) Ad hoc expert groups: five expert group meetings on: (a) access to environmental information for public participation in the ESCWA region; (b) national and sectoral policies for knowledge societies in the Arab countries; (c) reversing land degradation: issues and options; (d) second meeting of the Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation; (e) prospects for achieving

energy sector sustainability in the ESCWA region; and (f) upgrading environmental monitoring systems in the ESCWA region;

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget/extrabudgetary):

(i) Three recurrent publications: ESCWA water development report, No. 1; review of productivity and sustainable development activities, Nos. 3 and 4;

(ii) Eight non-recurrent publications: energy efficiency and cleaner fossil fuel uses in selected sectors in selected ESCWA countries; environmental standards and competitiveness of key economic sectors; follow-up on the activities of the regional mechanism on sustainable energy systems; interstate/interregional cooperation on shared water resources management: selected case studies; knowledge mapping and needs assessment in international water resources management in the ESCWA region; networking research, development and innovation in the Arab countries; technology transfer to small and medium enterprises and identification of opportunities for domestic and foreign direct investment in selected sectors; the role of women in rural areas in managing water, conserving energy and safeguarding the environment;

(iii) Technical material: development and maintenance of the ESCWA home page on productivity and sustainable development, including the web site on development of AWARENET;

(iv) Seven seminars for outside users on: sustainable development and competitiveness of the agro-food sector; enhancing agricultural productivity through on-farm water use efficiency; regional mechanism on sustainable energy systems; rural development: policies, strategies and institutions; application of the guidelines for international water resources management; development of sustainable development indicators and country profiles in selected sectors (agriculture, energy, environment, industry, technology and water); water governance: role of stakeholders and civil society institutions in water management;

(c) Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary): field project on endogenous capacity-building through new institutional forms in selected priority areas.

Table 22.11 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 1**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005 (before recosting)*	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005*
Regular budget				
Post	5 682.4	5 737.8	31	31
Non-post	465.5	476.0	-	-
Total	**6 147.9**	**6 213.8**	**31**	**31**
Extrabudgetary	616.0	100.0	-	-

22.27 The amount of $6,213,800 comprises: (a) $5,737,800 for the funding of 31 posts, reflecting an increase of $55,400 due to the reclassification of a P-4 post to the P-5 level, resulting from the additional responsibilities in the areas of improving food security, sustainable economic development and environmental protection; and (b) $476,000 under non-post requirements, reflecting an increase of $10,500 over the current biennium, mainly due to the decentralization of the total overtime provision previously budgeted under programme support.

Subprogramme 2
Integrated social policies

Resource requirements (before recosting): $5,545,900

22.28 This subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Social Development Division. The programme of work has been formulated by drawing upon subprogramme 2 of programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

Table 22.12 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective: To achieve regional cooperation in the advocacy and promotion of comprehensive and integrated social policies that are region-specific, culturally sensitive and have a practical orientation.

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Enhanced ability of member countries to formulate integrated social policies and programmes that incorporate advantageous cultural values	(a) (i) Increase in the number of officials and other end-users recognizing the importance of formulating integrated policies for social development *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: 13 officials and other end-users Target 2004-2005: 18 officials and other end-users (ii) Increase in the number of member countries formulating and implementing suitable social policies *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: three countries Target 2004-2005: eight countries
(b) Increased networking mechanisms for social development among partners and actors in the development process at the regional, national and local levels	(b) (i) Increase in the number of joint committees between Governments and civil society institutions, facilitated by ESCWA, at the regional, national and local levels *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none

	Estimate 2002-2003: none Target 2004-2005: three joint committees (ii) Increase in the number of NGOs, at the regional, national and local levels, participating in ESCWA meetings *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: 15 NGOs Target 2004-2005: 20 NGOs
(c) Increased capacity of policy makers for mainstreaming gender and reducing gender imbalances	(c) Increase in the number of Governments and institutions pursuing gender mainstreaming for gender equality *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: three countries Target 2004-2005: five countries
(d) Improved capacity of policy makers in formulating poverty reduction policies, measures, mechanisms and programmes to implement projects aimed at providing the population with opportunities for productive employment	(d) (i) Number of measures adopted at the Committee on Social Development that deal with poverty and unemployment *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: three measures Target 2004-2005: three measures (ii) Number of beneficiaries from training activities in projects *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: not available Estimate 2002-2003: 230 beneficiaries Target 2004-2005: 280 beneficiaries (iii) Number of electronic documentation centres for the blind *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: not available

	Estimate 2002-2003: none Target 2004-2005: one centre
(e) Improved ability of policy makers to address, in their strategies, population issues and critical issues with regard to good urban governance and security of tenure	(e) (i) Increase in the number of member countries formulating integrated population policies *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: three countries Target 2004-2005: eight countries (ii) Increase in the number of urban development initiatives in member countries that are developed with the assistance of ESCWA *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: not available Estimate 2002-2003: none Target 2004-2005: two joint national policy plans in relation to security of tenure and urban governance

External factors

22.29 The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member Governments are ready to accept NGOs in a greater role and to forge effective partnerships with them; (b) good coordination mechanisms are established to facilitate dialogue on integrated social policies between the various parties involved; (c) member States are supportive of gender mainstreaming; (d) extrabudgetary resources to finance technical assistance projects and activities are available; (e) valid data and databases for social indicators are available.

Outputs

22.30 During the biennium, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies:

(i) Economic and Social Council: parliamentary documentation: two reports on: economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan;

(ii) Committee on Social Development: (a) substantive servicing of six meetings of the fifth session of the Committee on Social Development; and (b) parliamentary documentation: a report to the Commission on the fifth session of the Committee on Social Development;

(iii) Ad hoc expert groups: seven expert group meetings on: formulation of integrated population policies; the second meeting of the ESCWA consultative committee on NGOs and sustainable development; globalization and employment; intraregional migration statistics; sustainable Arab cities, security of tenure and good urban governance; follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and its outcome in the ESCWA region; and on social policies in the region;

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget/extrabudgetary):

(i) Four recurrent publications: ESCWA population and development report; ESCWA social policies series; status of Arab women report 2005; studies on Arab women and development: gender, citizenship and NGOs in Egypt;

(ii) Two non-recurrent publications: women and the information society: use of information and communication technologies to empower women;

(iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits: information kits and indicators on Arab women; pamphlet on women and men in public life and leadership in Arab countries; wall chart on population and the Millennium Development Goals; wall chart on key indicators in the labour market;

(iv) Technical material: electronic bulletin on vital statistics in ESCWA member States; web-based databases on national and regional social indicators statistics, gender, health, population, labour; database and home page on population policy;

(c) Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary) field projects: eight projects on: a regional centre for gender mainstreaming in ESCWA member countries; capacity-building and networking; development of gender statistics in Arab countries; social policies; local community development in rural areas; post-conflict reconstruction in southern Lebanon and Palestine; promotion of Braille for the disabled; a regional campaign on security of tenure and urban governance.

Table 22.13 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 2**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005 (before recosting)*	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005*
Regular budget				
Post	5 038.5	5 143.1	28	28
Non-post	422.1	402.8	-	-
Total	**5 460.6**	**5 545.9**	**28**	**28**
Extrabudgetary	1 512.2	300.0	2	-

22.31 The amount of $5,545,900 comprises: (a) $5,143,100 for the funding of 28 posts, including an increase of $104,600 due to the reclassification of one local level post to P-2/1 so as to reflect additional functions assigned to this post in 2000-2001, and (b) $402,800 under non-post requirements, reflecting a decrease of $19,300, mainly due to reduced requirements for specialized expertise, resulting from the elimination of a number of non-recurrent publications, technical materials and seminars in 2004-2005.

Subprogramme 3
Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development

Resource requirements (before recosting): $3,347,400

22.32 This subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Economic Analysis Division. The programme of work has been formulated by drawing upon subprogramme 3 of programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

Table 22.14 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective: To increase the capacity of member countries to coordinate their economic policies and achieve economic development by providing a quantitative assessment of economic and financial data and trends.

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Utilization of macroeconomic variables and trends, and main trends in the production sectors of the economy by decision makers in achieving development goals	(a) Feedback from end-users on the benefits derived from ESCWA activities in this regard *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: none Target 2004-2005: 25 per cent increase in satisfaction expressed by end-users
(b) Improved availability, accessibility and analysis of economic and financial data and indicators including on regional integration	(b) Increase in the coverage and analysis of national and regional economic data and indicators *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: none Target 2004-2005: four indicators produced and disseminated
(c) Improved availability to member countries and business associations of relevant data and analysis of productivity and productivity trends	(c) Increase in the availability and coverage of production statistics *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: none Target 2004-2005: five enterprises/member States

(d) Improved capacity of member countries to assess their comparative economic situation at the regional and international level, and improved capacity of decision makers in member countries for timely intervention	(d) Improved availability of models and/or scenarios and projections disseminated by ESCWA *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: none Target 2004-2005: two scenarios produced and disseminated

External factors

22.33 The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) no negative development occurs that might affect the economic growth of member countries; (b) member States have adequate capacity for the use of economic models and projections; (c) member countries are willing to implement the 1993 System of National Accounts and purchasing-power-parity conversions; and (d) valid data and databases for economic statistics and indicators are available.

Outputs

22.34 During the biennium, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies: ad hoc expert groups: expert groups meeting on satellite accounts in the ESCWA region;

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget/extrabudgetary):

(i) Recurrent publications: *Analysis of Performances and Assessment of Growth and Productivity* (2); *Annual Indices of Production* (2); *Economic Trends and Impacts* (2); *Global Forecasts and Predictions* (2); *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region* (2);

(ii) Two non-recurrent publications: *Impact of Economic Variables on the Social Dimension of Development*; *Macroeconomic Policy Analysis for Regional Coordination in the ESCWA Member Countries*;

(c) Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary): training courses, seminars and workshops: workshop on debt analysis and management in ESCWA member countries.

Table 22.15 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 3**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005 (before recosting)*	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005*
Regular budget				
Post	2 966.3	3 148.4	16	17
Non-post	198.5	199.0	-	-
Total	**3 164.8**	**3 347.4**	**16**	**17**
Extrabudgetary	-	750.0	-	-

22.35 The amount of $3,347,400 comprises: (a) $3,148,400 for the funding of 17 posts, reflecting an increase of $182,100 due to the redeployment to this subprogramme of one P-2/1 post from subprogramme 5 to strengthen activities regarding quantitative assessment of economic and financial data and trends, and (b) $199,000 under non-post requirements, representing an increase of $500, as a result of the distribution of the part of the provision for overtime previously budgeted under programme support.

Subprogramme 4
Regional integration and responding to globalization

Resource requirements (before recosting): $4,689,000

22.36 This subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Globalization and Regional Integration Division. The programme of work has been formulated by drawing upon subprogramme 4 of programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

Table 22.16 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective: To facilitate transboundary flows of goods, information, services, persons and capital in order to meet the challenges posed by and the opportunities offered by the trend towards globalization.

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Increased facilitation of transboundary flows of goods, services, persons and capital among member countries	(a) (i) Increase in the number of member countries that initiate steps to establish national trade and transport facilitation committees *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: one country Estimate 2002-2003: two countries Target 2004-2005: three countries (ii) Increase in the number of countries formulating interregional transport linkages *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: not available Estimate 2002-2003: three countries Target 2004-2005: six countries (iii) Increase in the number of countries that adopt/ratify transport facilitation schemes

		Performance measures: 2000-2001: not available Estimate 2002-2003: eight countries adopting/ratifying transport facilitation schemes Target 2004-2005: 16 countries adopting/ratifying transport facilitation schemes
(b) Increased awareness among member countries of the challenges to their economies and the opportunities created by the new regional and international trading systems	(b)	(i) Number of rules and regulations adjusted in compliance with the requirements of the WTO Agreement *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: not available Estimate 2002-2003: 40 laws and regulations modified to be consistent with WTO Agreement Target 2004-2005: 60 laws and regulations modified to be consistent with WTO Agreement (ii) Increase in the number of female officials and other end-users participating in ESCWA meetings/seminars on regional and global integration *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: 15 female participants Target 2004-2005: 25 female participants
(c) Increased attractiveness of member countries for domestic, intraregional and foreign investment	(c)	Policies and measures adopted by member countries that contribute to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the inflow of foreign direct investment *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: none Target 2004-2005: three policies/measures adopted in line with the Monterrey Consensus

(d) Increased export capacity of ESCWA member countries	(d) Increase in the number of procedures, policies and measures implemented by member countries in compliance with the scheduled implementation steps of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: two procedures, policies and measures Target 2004-2005: three procedures, policies and measures

External factors

22.37 The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) ESCWA member States show commitment to the recommendations of the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey Consensus); (b) there is increasing recognition by member States of the importance of regional economic cooperation in an era of globalization; (c) there is the political will to ratify/adopt transport agreements and transport facilitation measures; (d) valid data and databases on trade, finance and transport-related statistics are available.

Outputs

22.38 During the biennium, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies:

(i) Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA region:

a. Substantive servicing of the fourth session of the Committee (4 meetings);

b. Parliamentary documentation: one report to the Commission on the fourth session of the Committee;

(ii) Committee on Transport:

a. Substantive servicing of the fifth and the sixth sessions of the Committee (12 meetings);

b. Parliamentary documentation: two reports to the Commission on the fifth and sixth sessions of the Committee;

(iii) Regional ministerial meeting in preparation for the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference: substantive servicing of four meetings, 2005;

(iv) Ad hoc expert groups: three expert group meetings on: transport facilitation for regional integration, assessment of progress made in regional integration and interregional cooperation, and follow-up on the results of the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference;

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget):

(i) Recurrent publications (3): *Annual Review of Developments in Globalization and Regional Integration in the Countries of the ESCWA Region*; *Methodological Framework for the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq*; *Review of Progress made by Yemen in the Implementation of the New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries*;

(ii) Non-recurrent publications (10): report on follow-up action on the adoption/implementation of the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq; the role of transnational corporations from developed and developing countries in the ESCWA region; action plan for the implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq; developments in the regulation of intellectual property rights in Arab countries; impact of regional integration on certain sectors in selected ESCWA member countries; report on follow-up action on cooperation in maritime transport in the Arab Mashreq; study on follow-up action on the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus: progress made by ESCWA member countries; study on the implications of the commitments of ESCWA member countries to WTO agreements, European partnership agreements and the Great Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA); trade and investment in the Arab countries; trade facilitation in the Arab countries;

(iii) Technical material: development of an information base for an integrated transport system in the Arab Mashreq; development and maintenance of a database on foreign direct investment flows, foreign assistance and stock markets; maintaining of the ESCWA home page on globalization and regional integration.

Table 22.17 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 4**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005 (before recosting)*	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005*
Regular budget				
Post	4 331.0	4 386.4	23	23
Non-post	302.2	302.6	-	-
Total	**4 633.2**	**4 689.0**	**23**	**23**
Extrabudgetary	60.0	-	-	-

22.39 The amount of $4,689,000 comprises: (a) $4,386,400 to provide for 23 posts, reflecting an increase of $55,400 due to the reclassification of a P-4 post to P-5 owing to additional responsibilities in the transport area; and (b) $302,600 under non-post expenditures, reflecting a slight increase of $400, mainly for travel of staff to carry out activities relating to cooperation in the transport sector.

Subprogramme 5
Information and communication technology for regional integration

Resource requirement (before recosting): $3,092,000

22.40 This subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Information and Communication Technology Division. The programme of work has been formulated by drawing upon subprogramme 5 of programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

Table 22.18 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective: To increase the capabilities of member countries to harness information and communication technologies for their development.

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Increased response of member countries to integrated information and communication technology policies, strengthened institutional capacities and regulatory framework in the development process, including the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society and their effective participation in its second phase	(a) Number of member countries adopting recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society that relate to regional priorities *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: none Target 2004-2005: six countries
(b) Improved connectivity in and between member States	(b) (i) Number of initiatives targeting information and communication technology standards related to regional specificities and involving ESCWA *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: two regional initiatives Target 2004-2005: three regional initiatives (ii) Number of countries formulating information and communication technology policies to improve telecommunication infrastructures, networks and services *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: three countries Target 2004-2005: four countries
(c) Increased positive impact on selected fields of development through wider utilization of promising information and communication technology applications and success stories	(c) (i) Number of initiatives, involving ESCWA, to promote information and communication technology applications in member countries *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none

	Estimate 2002-2003: four information and communication technology initiatives Target 2004-2005: six information and communication technology initiatives (ii) Number of countries implementing promising information and communication technology applications *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: three countries with declared information and communication technology policies Target 2004-2005: four countries with declared information and communication technology policies
(d) Improved promotion of the role of information and communication technologies in increasing the competitiveness of enterprises, and improved access to information and communication technology of the poor strata of the population in the region in order to reduce the digital divide	(d) Number of ICT-based initiatives, involving ESCWA, targeting enhanced enterprise competitiveness, employment opportunities and poverty reduction, particularly for youth and women *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: one information and communication technology-based initiative Target 2004-2005: three information and communication technology-based initiatives
(e) Improved availability, accessibility and usage of national and regional data and information in socio-economic fields	(e) Increase in the contribution to and usage of ESCWA databases by member States *Performance measures:* 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: none Target 2004-2005: six database modules constructed

External factors

22.41 The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) ESCWA member States are supportive of the efforts to utilize information and communication technologies in increasing competitiveness and productivity; (b) a sufficient information and communication technology infrastructure and applications that support networking and connectivity are available; (c) member States give due attention to implementing the relevant recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society.

Outputs

22.42 During the biennium, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies: ad hoc expert groups: three expert groups on: enterprise incubation schemes in information and communication technologies; legal and regulatory frameworks for e-business in ESCWA member countries; regional preparatory conference for the second World Summit on the Information Society;

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget/extrabudgetary):

(i) Two recurrent publications: *Review of Information and Communication Technologies and Development* (Nos. 3 and 4);

(ii) Seven non-recurrent publications: Arabic content on the Internet: issues, policies and standards; data centres and Internet hosts — opportunities for regional integration; enhancing telecommunication infrastructures, services and policies in ESCWA member countries; information and communication technologies for poverty reduction in selected ESCWA member countries; information and knowledge management in the public sector; needs and requirements for disseminating system and process integration technologies in the ESCWA region; towards an integrated knowledge society in the Arab countries — strategies and implementation modalities;

(iii) Technical material: development of the ESCWA Statistical Information System (ESIS): energy resources and use, water resources and use, population, social indicators, gender, trade, national accounts, labour, health and vital statistics, transport, and finance database modules;

(c) Technical cooperation (extrabudgetary): field projects: two pilot projects on new technologies for poverty reduction in selected ESCWA member countries.

Table 22.19 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 5**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005 (before recosting)*	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005*
Regular budget				
Post	3 015.5	2 833.4	16	15
Non-post	237.7	258.6	0	0
Total	**3 253.2**	**3 092.0**	**16**	**15**
Extrabudgetary	71.2	250.0	-	-

22.43 The amount of $3,092,000 comprises: (a) $2,833,400 to provide for 15 posts, reflecting a decrease of $182,100 due to the outward redeployment of a P-2/1 post to subprogramme 3; and (b) $258,600 under non-post requirements, reflecting an increase of $20,900, due to additional requirements under general temporary assistance relating to the development of 16 database modules for the ESCWA Statistical Information System.

Subprogramme 6
Comparable statistics for improved planning and decision-making

Resource requirement (before recosting): $321,700

22.44 This subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Statistics Coordination Unit, which serves as the secretariat of the Interdivisional Statistics Steering Committee. This Committee coordinates the implementation, by all divisions, of the programme of work, which has been formulated by drawing upon subprogramme 6 of programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

Table 22.20 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective: To improve the statistical capabilities of countries in the region for informed decision-making and improve the availability and timeliness of comparable statistical information.

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Improved national capacity for the production and dissemination of quality statistics	(a) Number of measures agreed upon by member countries to harmonize statistics and improve their quality *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: none Estimate 2002-2003: none Target 2004-2005: five measures
(b) Improved capacity of member countries for the implementation of comparable national accounts	(b) (i) Number of countries adopting purchasing power parity (PPP) conversions *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: not available Estimate 2002-2003: none Target 2004-2005: 11 countries (ii) Number of countries implementing the 1993 System of National Accounts *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: not available Estimate 2002-2003: three countries Target 2004-2005: six countries

(c) Improved capacity of member countries for the production and utilization of sectoral statistics and indicators to measure productivity and efficiency and monitor development policies in these sectors and, in particular, sustainable development indicators and statistics in new areas, such as gender and poverty	(c) Increase in coverage and/or dissemination of statistics on trade, transport, natural resources, energy and the environment *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: not available Estimate 2002-2003: none Target 2004-2005: 20 per cent average increase in coverage of databases
(d) Increased production and utilization by member countries of a core of social indicators needed for monitoring social development policies	(d) Number of indicators developed and adopted by member countries to monitor various aspects of social development *Performance measures*: 2000-2001: not available Estimate 2002-2003: 10 social indicators Target 2004-2005: 12 social indicators

External factors

22.45 The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) Member States are willing to provide data and information for the construction of databases and environmental monitoring; and (b) data needed for databases and for the social indicators is available and valid.

Outputs

22.46 During the biennium, the following final outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies:

(i) Statistical Committee:

a. Substantive servicing of six meetings of the sixth session of the Statistical Committee;

b. Parliamentary documentation: report to the Commission on the sixth session of the Statistical Committee;

(ii) Ad hoc expert groups: expert group meeting on the compilation of trade in service statistics;

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget):

(i) Five recurrent publications: *Compendium of Social Statistics and Indicators; External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region* (2); *National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region* (2);

(ii) Technical material: bulletin on vital statistics in ESCWA member States; maintenance of six ESCWA Statistical Information System (ESIS) modules: transport and trade databases; financial and national accounts database; web-based database on national and

regional energy resources and use; web-based database on national and regional water resources and use; web-based databases on national and regional social indicators, gender, population, labour, and health and vital statistics; statistical abstract of the ESCWA region;

(c) Technical cooperation (regular budget): field projects: the International Comparison Programme (ICP).

Table 22.21 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 6**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005 (before recosting)*	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005*
Regular budget				
Post	196.8	301.3	2	2
Non-post	16.9	20.4	0	0
Total	**213.7**	**321.7**	**2**	**2**

22.47 The amount of $321,700 comprises: (a) $301,300 for the continued funding of two posts, reflecting the increase of $104,500 due to the delayed impact of growth in 2002-2003; and (b) $20,400 under non-post expenditures, reflecting an increase of $3,500, for the convening of an expert group meeting on the compilation of statistics on trade in services.

D. Programme support

Resource requirements (before recosting): $24,946,800

22.48 Programme support comprises the Administrative Services Division, the Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division and the Conference Services Section and Library.

Outputs

22.49 The outputs of the Administrative Services Division include the following:

(a) Overall administration and management: planning, monitoring and evaluating ESCWA regular budget and extrabudgetary activities and technical cooperation programmes;

(b) Human resources management: recruitment and placement; provision of staff administration and staff welfare services; training; career development and upgrading of substantive skills; staff-management relations, administration of justice; resolution of disputes and conflicts; provision of medical services and legal advice;

(c) Budgetary and financial services: advising the Executive Secretary on all administrative, management, security and organizational matters; provision of guidance, coordination and support services for programme managers in the preparation of programme budget proposals and performance reports; overall control of utilization of regular budget and extrabudgetary resources; provision of accounting services and financial disbursements, including payroll, vendors, per diem and other entitlements; coordination of the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS);

(d) Electronic data-processing services: provision of information technology services and infrastructure and standardization of software and hardware; provision of in-house programming services for all substantive divisions in order to ensure compatibility with the existing technology as well as to establish a centralized control management system of the Local Area Network (LAN); provision of videoconferencing; enhancement of the ESCWA Internet and Intranet sites;

(e) General services: administration of the implementation of the headquarters agreement between the United Nations and the host Government; facilities management and maintenance; provision of commercial and procurement services; communications support including satellite, radio network, telephone and fax; transportation, logistic and travel services; liaison with government officials of the host country; protection of personnel and property; provision of postal services; maintenance of central registry and archives system; store and inventory management.

22.50 The outputs of the Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division include the following:

(a) Planning, monitoring and evaluation: programme planning, monitoring and evaluation of the programme of work, regular budget and extrabudgetary activities, including coordination within ESCWA and with other United Nations and non-United Nations organizations;

(b) Management of technical cooperation activities: provision of administrative backstopping for project formulation, preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; provision of advisory services for member countries, at their request, through a pool of highly qualified experts and assistance in their capacity-building through workshops/seminars; maintaining liaison with United Nations organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and donor Governments and agencies, as well as fund-raising.

22.51 The outputs of the Conference Services Section and the Library include the following:

(a) Conference services: provision of conference services for the policy-making organs of ESCWA and other intergovernmental meetings held under its auspices, including the preparation and coordination of official meetings; provision of interpretation, verbatim reporting, translation, editorial services; documentation and publication services; secretarial and technical support;

(b) Library services: provision of library services and information for staff, member States, United Nations libraries and depository libraries and other clients; acquisition of publications, databases; indexing of ESCWA documents on the Official Document System to make them available to Internet users; and developing library Internet/Intranet web pages.

Table 22.22 **Summary of resource requirements**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005 (before recosting)*	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005*
Regular budget				
Post	17 668.5	18 750.0	159	159
Non-post	6 601.1	6 196.8	-	-
Total	**24 269.6**	**24 946.8**	**159**	**159**
Extrabudgetary	97.3	-	-	-

22.52 The amount of $24,946,800 is required: (a) $18,750,000 for the continuation of 159 posts. The increase of $1,081,500 is due to the delayed impact resulting from growth in 2002-2003; and (b) $6,196,800 under non-post expenditures, reflecting a decrease of $404,300, which is the net result of a number of increases and decreases under various objects of expenditure, the bulk of which reflect actual expenditure experience.

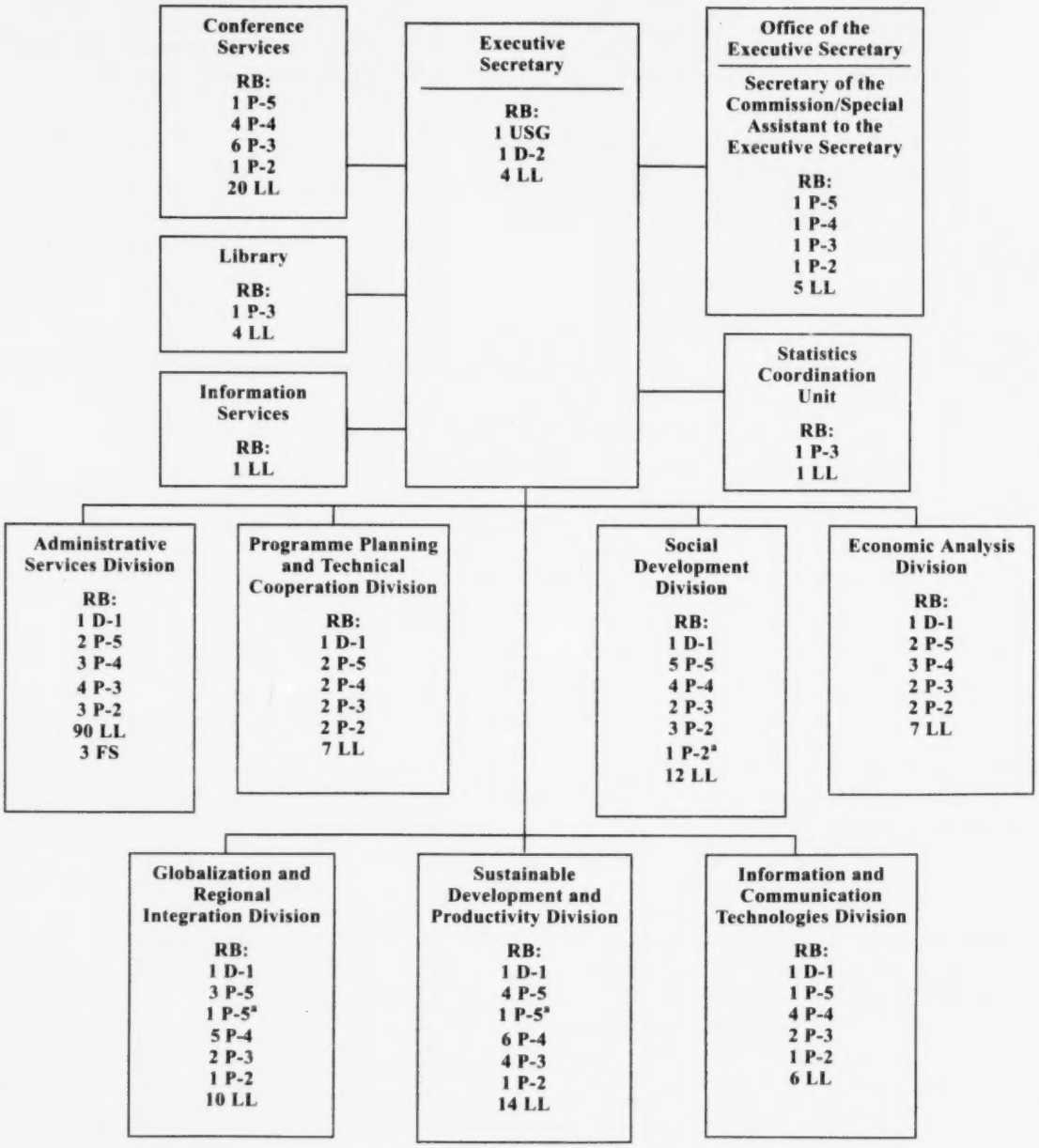
Table 22.23 **Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of the internal and external oversight bodies and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
General Assembly	
Resolution 56/242, part III, paragraph 17	
Requests the Secretary-General to ensure fully the issuance of all documents and publications of ESCWA in Arabic as well as other working languages of the Commission.	Pledged to publish 80 per cent of documents in Arabic during the 2002-2003 period and 100 per cent during the 2004-2005 biennium, while maintaining the current percentage in English, and French.
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	
V70. The Committee requests that the Secretary-General conduct a survey of practices in other United Nations offices on adjusting payments to contractors in order to lower the gap between United Nations local staff and that of contractual staff, and to propose policy options thereon in the context of the proposed 2004-2005 programme budget.	In line with the recommendations of the Headquarters Committee on Contracts and of the Office of Legal Affairs, ESCWA discontinued the adjusting of payments to contractual staff employed by a local contractor to provide outsourced office support services. A new contract, effective August 2002, does not provide for such adjustments.
V72. The Committee requests that the next budget submission, the secretariat of the Commission clearly spell out the effect that the results of the evaluation will have on the operation of the Commission and the proposed estimates.	While resources will remain the same, ESCWA will attempt to maximize the impact of regional advisory services by formulating a strategy that links these services to priorities of the work programme and thereby provide short-term services not available in-house to attend to special requests.
V74. The Committee expressed concern at ESCWA's use of a large amount of resources to prepare publications that may not be of much use to targeted end-users.	In the 2002-2003 biennium, ESCWA reduced the number of its outputs, including publications, by 15 per cent and, after further scrutiny, by an additional 12 per cent so as to better serve its end-users, thus ensuring that publications will be produced in the languages of its targeted audiences.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (audit of ESCWA in April 2001)	
Establish a framework for planning and executing the work programme or in-depth evaluation of outputs in view of the Commission's refocused programmatic priorities.	As indicated in paragraph 95 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/57/451), of 29 recommendations issued by that Office, ESCWA implemented 28.
Increase coordination in developing work plans and clarify responsibilities with regard to: budget preparation and monitoring; project implementation; quality assurance; and fund-raising.	
The Commission's human resources and financial management functions need to be improved.	

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Organizational structure and post distribution for the biennium 2004-2005



[a] Reclassified posts.

Abbreviations: LL, Local level; FS, Field Service

Annex

Recurrent outputs not to be carried out in the biennium 2004-2005

A/56/6, paragraph	*Output*	*Quantity*	*Reason for discontinuation*
(b) (i)	*Studies on Arab Women and Development Series, No. 32: Globalization, Poverty and the Gender-based Division of Labour in Selected ESCWA Member Countries*	1	Frequency of issuance varies from one publication to another
	Total	**1**	